

Message Text

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63

ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 IO-10 DODE-00 COME-00

GSA-02 /033 W

----- 109905

R 261212Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8548
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 2677

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP, EEC

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW OF BUY NATIONAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

REF: A. STATE 64436 B. EC BRUSSELS 981 C. EC BRUSSELS 1748

1. THE MISSION WELCOMES THE VISIT OF THE GAO AUDITORS BUT THEY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THOUGH EC MEMBER STATES HAVE NATIONAL PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT IN GENERAL YET HAVE A HARMONIZED OR COORDINATED PUBLIC PROCUREMENT POLICY. THE MAJOR EC EFFORT IN THE AREA OF GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT IS A DRAFT DIRECTIVE PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION AND SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL IN 1973 DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE THE DISCRIMINATORY NATIONAL PROCUREMENT POLICIES OF THE MEMBER STATES. THIS DIRECTIVE IS STILL AWAITING FINAL COUNCIL ACTION. THE MISSION'S MOST RECENT REPORT IS IN REG B.

2. THE COMMUNITY IS ALSO DEVELOPING SECTORAL POLICIES IN THE AVIATION AND ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING FIELDS THAT ARE DESIGNED TO FURTHER "EUROPEAN"- BASED COMPANIES INTER ALIA VIA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT. SHOULD THESE POLICIES EVER BECOME EFFECTIVE, THEY COULD ALSO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR US EXPORT INTERESTS. THE MISSION'S LATEST REPORT IS IN REF C.

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3. APART FROM THE FOREGOING, THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) WHICH FINANCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE ACP ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES, HS REGULATIONS LIMITING PROCUREMENT TO MEMBER STATES AND THE ACP COUNTRIES.

4. THE MISSION WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THE ABOVE MATTERS WITH THE GAO AUDITORS.

GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU02677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750106-0636
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750315/aaaaamvi.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ABF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 64436, 75 EC BRUSSELS 981, 75 EC BRUSSELS 1748
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolfhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by leeperne>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by woolfhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAO REVIEW OF BUY NATIONAL POLICIES AND PRACTICES
TAGS: AFSP, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006